

12-13-1996

SR-96-97-(17) 83 (BAPC) (SCWC)

Marshall University

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**BUDGET & ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE AND  
STUDENT CONDUCT & WELFARE COMMITTEE  
RECOMMENDATION**

**SR-96-97-(17) 83 (BAPC) (SCWC)**

Recommends that the University Class Attendance Policy (p. 42 of the 1995-1997 undergraduate catalog) be amended as follows (additions are underlined):

Absences such as those resulting from illness, death in the family, or institutional activities (those approved by the academic deans, such as debate, artistic performances and athletics) are to be excused when a student reports and verifies them to the instructor. Absences resulting from major religious holidays are to be excused when a student reports them and verifies them to the instructor in advance.

**RATIONALE:**

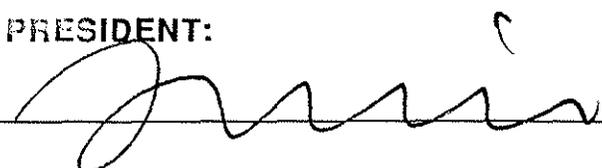
1. This policy will accommodate the religious diversity among students on our campus.
2. In 1990, the President's Commission on Multiculturalism recommended that students be excused from class due to religious holidays.
3. An informal survey conducted by Marshall's Office of Student Affairs (available in the Senate Office) demonstrates that while many universities do not have a formal policy on religious holidays, professors are asked to accommodate absences due to the major religious holidays.
4. Federal law grants time off to employees who wish to observe religious holidays, which applies to Marshall staff.

**FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT:**

APPROVED  
BY SENATE: Elaine Baker DATE: 12-13-96

DISAPPROVED  
BY SENATE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT:

APPROVED:  DATE: 1-06-97

DISAPPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMENTS:**

Amended on the Senate floor, 12/12/96. The amendment was as follows: Absences

such as those resulting from illness, death in the family, ~~major religious holidays~~, or

institutional activities (those approved by the academic deans, such as debate,

artistic performances and athletics are to be excused when a student reports them

to the instructor ~~in advance~~. The following sentence was added: *Absences*

*resulting from major religious holidays are to be excused when a student reports them*

*and verifies them to the instructor in advance.*

**SR-96-97-(17) 83 (SCWC) (BAPC)**